

## **LACDMH HQ CELEBRATES “TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK”**

By Margaret Ayala, LACDMH Administrative Support Bureau



Each year, the County of Los Angeles celebrates “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” to bring young people to the workplace, allow them to experience activities and events, and explore careers. “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” is observed nationally on the fourth Thursday in April. The Board of Supervisors has generally celebrated this day on the Tuesday prior to the official date to give our daughters and sons the opportunity to see County government at work.

On Tuesday, April 16, 2013, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) headquarters participated in the annual “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day” as supported by the Board of Supervisors. The staff invited their daughters, sons, relatives, friends and other sponsored girls and boys between the ages of 9-16 to attend. The opening remarks, welcome and introduction were given by Robin Kay, Margo Morales, and Karen Fullner. LACDMH guest presentations were also done by:

- Gail DiRaimondo and Aron Steward from the START program presented bullying
- Alysa Solomon from LACDMH presented anti-stigma

- Dennis Griffin from Downtown MHC presented homelessness
- Sgt. Mark Jennings and Deputy Chip from the Sheriff's Department's K-9 unit



After the program ended, the children were then free to spend the remainder of the afternoon with their sponsoring adult. The feedback received included comments such as:

- “The speakers were excellent and showed the kids the things employees do as well as how the County helps the community.”
- “The kids enjoyed when the K-9 unit arrived and when they were allowed to enter the police vehicle.”
- “I liked that kids learned about mental health and what it is.”

The 2013 LACDMH HQ Planning Team extends its heartfelt gratitude to all of the speakers for making this year's event a huge success. Thank you!

